

Fellow soldiers: In order of Providence we are this day called upon to pay the last sad offices of respect to the remains of the noble and heroic band who, battling for our sacred rights, have fallen beneath the ruthless hand of a tyrant. Their chivalrous conduct entitles them to the heartfelt gratitude of the people of Texas. Without any further interest in the country than all noble hearts feel at the bare mention of liberty, they rallied to our standard. Relinquishing the peace, the ease, the comforts of home; leaving behind them all they held dear—their mothers, sisters, daughters and wives—they subjected themselves to fatigue and privation, and nobly threw themselves between the people of Texas and the legions of Santa Anna. There, unaided by re-inforcement, and far from hope and help, they battled bravely with the minions of the tyrant, ten to one. Surrounded in the open prairie by this fearful odd, cut off from provision and even water, they were induced, under sacred promise of receiving the treatment usual to prisoners of war, to surrender. They were marched back, and for a week treated with the utmost inhumanity and barbarity. They were marched out of your fort under the pretence of getting provisions, and it was not until the firing of musketry and shrieks of the dying were heard that they were satisfied of their approaching fate. Some endeavored to make their escape, but they were pursued by the ruthless cavalry, and most of them cut down with swords. A small number of them now stand by the grave—a bare remnant of a noble band. Our tribute of respect is due to them and to the mothers, sisters and wives who weep their untimely end; that we should mingle our tears with theirs. In that mass of remains and fragments of bones many a mother might see her son, many a sister her brother, and many a wife her own beloved and affectionate husband. But we have a consolation yet to offer them. Their murderers sank into death on the prairies of San Jacinto under the appalling cries: "Remember La Bahia." We have another consolation to offer. While liberty has a habitation and a name their tragic fate will be handed down to remotest posterity on the brightest pages of history. Santa Anna, the black-hearted murderer, the mock hero, is within our grasp. There he must remain tortured by the aching pain of a corroding conscience. He must sometimes reflect on the tragedy of La Bahia! While the names of those whom he murdered shall soar to the highest pinnacles of fame, his shall sink down to the deepest depths of infamy and disgrace.

During the delivery of this address the general had the attention of the whole army. When he spoke of the sufferings of these martyrs in the cause of liberty I saw tears flow from the eyes of more than one brave man. At its conclusion I observed many compass their lips and involuntarily grasp their weapons more firmly as if they felt that the holocaust of San Jacinto had not compensated them for the brutal murder of their comrades at La Bahia. The army marched back to their quarters.

SAML DEXTER, Aid de Camp.

## Report of Burial of Col. James W. Fannin's Men Written By Sam'l Dexter, June 4, 1836

La Bahia, June 4, 1836.

On arriving at this place we found no difficulty in discovering the ground upon which Fannin and his gallant men were shot by order of Santa Anna. Most of their bodies were burned, while there were many bones and some entire skeletons scattered over the plain for some distance. It had long been determined that, as soon as practicable after the arrival of the army here, these remains should be collected and a day set apart for their burial with all the honors of war. Accordingly on the 1st instant General Rusk issued the following order:

As a token of respect, as well as to the men who fell a sacrifice to the treachery and bad faith of our enemy, as a duty that we owe to the relatives of the unfortunate deceased and ourselves, it is ordered that the skeletons and bones of our murdered countrymen be collected into one place in front of the Fort and buried with all honors of war.

THOMAS J. RUSK,  
Brigadier General, Commanding.

On the afternoon of the ensuing day, the bones having been collected, the following order was given:

A general parade of the Army will take place tomorrow at half-past eight o'clock. The funeral will take place at nine A. M. Colonel Sidney Sherman will take command and conduct the procession in the following order:

- First, artillery.
  - Second, music.
  - Third, Major Morehouse's Command.
  - Fourth, six commissioned officers; the corpses; six commissioned officers.
  - Fifth, five mourners, those of Colonel Fannin's command who are with the army, and who so miraculously escaped, will attend as mourners.
  - Sixth, commanding general and staff.
  - Seventh, medical staff.
  - Eighth, Second Regiment.
  - Ninth, First Regiment.
  - Tenth, regulars.
- Major Poe will cause a minute gun to be fired from the Fort, commencing at the time the procession moves and continuing until it arrives at the grave.

THOMAS J. RUSK,  
Brigadier General, Commanding.

The following morning being Friday, June 3rd, the army was paraded within the walls of the Fort at the hour appointed; and at nine o'clock, with arms reversed, moved slowly toward the place of burial, on reaching which General Rusk pronounced a brief but feeling and eloquent address: